

## For the Year 1955

The MacLashir Standard, Ltd.,



SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Twenty-First Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1955	...	...	...	...	...	4,346
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	£139,970
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£555
Population Est. Mid. Year 1955	...	...	...	...	...	12,620

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total		Males		Females
Births	276	...	139	...	137
Deaths	162	...	81	...	81
Birth Rate	21.9	...	Death Rate	12.8	
Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	{		from Sepsis	...	Nil
	{		from other causes	...	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	...	6
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	21.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoeæ (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	Nil



**Notifiable Diseases** (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:—

		Total cases notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Dysentery	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	... ..	I	...	Nil	...	Nil
Diphtheria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Erysipelas	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	... ..	I	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	... ..	7I	...	Nil	...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever		Nil	..	Nil	...	Nil
Malaria	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	... ..	4	...	4	...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	2	...	Nil	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	... ..	I	...	Nil	...	Nil
Meningitis	... ..	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
		<hr/> 82 <hr/>	...	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	...	<hr/> Nil <hr/>

#### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

There were no cases notified during the year.

#### **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: G. W. Robinson, C.R.S.I.

#### **CECIL AVENUE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.**

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Joelson and two Health Visitors are in attendance to give professional advice. All other duties are carried out by the Voluntary Committee. Mothers and their babies are entered in the Attendance Register, the babies are weighed and a record is kept of their weight each week. Tea is provided during the afternoon for those who are waiting either to have baby weighed or to see Doctor. Dried Milk, Baby Foods and Cereals are sold at cost price, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are also dispensed. 279 Children were registered during the year.

Immunisation and vaccination by Clinic Doctor each Friday.

Toddlers now attend Toddlers Clinic by appointment and have sunlight treatment and see Doctor if necessary. Free booklets can be obtained from the nurses, giving advice on hygiene-ante-natal

care, children's shoes, and various other subjects of interest to mothers.

There has been an excellent response from parents with regard to polio vaccination : further details forthcoming in next report.

### **WINTHORPE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.**

The Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Health Visitor and two members of the Voluntary Committee are in attendance.

Babies are weighed and a record is kept of their progress.

Mothers are able to purchase Baby Foods and Cereals, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice.

Average attendance was six.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year. Immunisation and Vaccination are also carried out by all Medical Practitioners in the town.

### **HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION**

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Ophthalmologist attends at the Clinic, Cecil Avenue, on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy. In some cases these visits are not frequent enough, with the result that cases are sent away to other hospitals which should, and could, be treated in the local hospital.

The accommodation of the aged people who are sick or infirm, and require some nursing care, is becoming an ever increasing problem. Although there are a few nursing homes in the area for the purpose the fees are beyond the means of most aged persons. I trust the County Council will endeavour to solve this problem in the near future.

### **Immunisation.**

It is important that young children should be immunised and vaccinated. I am afraid many parents are becoming careless in this respect, and there is therefore a falling off in the number of

children who are given the protection against disease to which they are entitled.

### **Venereal Diseases.**

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

### **GENERAL HEALTH.**

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

### **DAY NURSERY.**

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

### **Scavenging.**

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.



## **Shops Act.**

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

## **Housing.**

Your Council has made extremely good progress with the building of new houses, including bungalows for aged persons. It seems, however, that the number of applicants for new houses still keeps at a high level, so creating a problem which can become permanent unless other solutions to a housing problem can be found.

## **District Nurses.**

There are once again two District Nurses in Skegness. Their work is most efficient and the care and comfort derived by patients from these nurses is considerable.

## **Report on Housing Acts Inspections.**

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

## **Water Supply.**

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity. A copy report is appended.

Laboratory Report No. L55/10392.

### **BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.**

The sample of water marked, Tap on Main Supply, Town Hall, Skegness, collected on 9.6.55, has been examined, and with the following results :—

Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	...	= 0 per 100 ml.
Faecal coli	... ..	not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli	...	none per 100 ml.

REMARKS : CLASS I (highly satisfactory).

(Signed) R. S. RALPH,  
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
Laboratory Director.

**1.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	7	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	86	93	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	3	2	2	—	—
Total ..	6	95	104	2	—

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .		2	2		
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .		—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .		—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. .. .		—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .		—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. .. .		1	1	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .		1	1	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .		—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .		1	—		1
Total ..		5	4	—	1



**Meat and Food.**

The area served by the abattoir is the Urban Area, the Urban Areas of Alford, Mablethorpe and Sutton and parts of the Spilsby Rural District.

Visits are made by your Council's Meat Inspectors during hours of slaughter, and a detailed report of the number of animals killed and the action taken with respect to the number of animals inspected and the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops and other premises where food is prepared or deposited for the purpose of sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, very well kept.

**Milk Supply.**

I consider the milk supply in this town is excellent. With the exception of approximately fifty gallons per day, all the milk sold is Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted during the year:—

Sterlised Milk	...	...	...	...	13
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	5

**Ice Cream.**

Thirty-one samples of ice cream were sent to the Analyst, who reports on the samples as follows:—

Grade I — 19	...	Grade II — 7
Grade III — 4	...	Grade IV — 1

Regular visits are made to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold by retail, and help and advice given where necessary.

**Bakehouses.**

There are no underground bakehouses in the area. All the bakehouses are of a good type, clean and well kept, and give little or no cause for complaint.

### **Sale of Food and Drugs.**

This work is carried out by the County Council.

### **Swimming Pools.**

Copy of Analysis, Skegness Bathing Pool:—

#### **BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.**

15.9.55.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37° Aerobically 1 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days—  
37°C 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli ... 0 per 100 ml.

This water is very satisfactory for bathing purposes.

### **Factories.**

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography, upholstery and electrical materials.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.),  
Medical Officer of Health.

# Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1955.

## HOUSING

<b>Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year</b>	...	72
(I.) By the Local Authority	... ..	38
(II.) By other Local Authorities	... ..	2
(III.) By other bodies or persons	... ..	32

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

(i) Return of Proposals in accordance with Part I of the Act and Circular 55/54. Please complete Appendix A	... ..	
(ii) Number of certificates of disrepair issued following application by tenants served with rent increase notices (Section 26)	... ..	2

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.

(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	360
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	690

### Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	337
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### Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	4



(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) by owners ... ..	2	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	13	
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) by owners ... ..	8	
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil	
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil	
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil	
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders ... ..	Nil	
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil	
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil	
(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:—		
(1) No. of Clearance Orders made ... ..	Nil	
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof ... ..	Nil	

**Housing Act, 1949.**

(a) No. of applications for grants received	...	9
(b) No. of grants made	... ..	7
(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority	... ..	Nil

**Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—**

No. of site licences	... ..	17
No. of individual licences	... ..	Nil
Total number of caravans permitted under licences		1,210
No. of inspections during year—		
Sites	... ..	51
Dwellings	..	27
No. of contraventions remedied	... ..	7

**FOOD PREMISES.****Bakehouses—**

No. in district	... ..	9
No. of inspections	... ..	31
No. of contraventions	... ..	1
Defects remedied	... ..	Nil

**Milk Supplies—**

No. of distributors on register—

Sterilised	... ..	13
Past.	... ..	7
T.T.	... ..	5
N/D	... ..	Nil

No. of samples of milk taken in course of delivery  
(other than biological)—

Sterilised	... ..	Nil
Past.	... ..	Nil
T.T.	... ..	Nil
N/D	... ..	Nil

No. of samples satisfactory—					
	Sterilised	...	...	...	Nil
	Past.	...	...	...	Nil
	T.T.	...	...	...	Nil
	N/D	...	...	...	Nil
No. of inspections of dairy premises					9
No. of contraventions remedied					1
<b>Ice Cream—</b>					
No. of manufacturers on register					9
No. of premises licensed for sale of Ice Cream					135
No. of inspections of premises made					42
No. of Contraventions found					4
No. of Contraventions remedied					4
No. of samples taken					19
	Grade I	...	...	...	7
	Grade II	...	...	...	4
	Grade III	...	...	...	1
	Grade IV	...	...	...	
<b>Meat Products—</b>					
No. of premises registered for manufacture of meat products					17
No. of inspections made					44
No. of Contraventions found					1
No. of Contraventions remedied					1
<b>Other Food Premises—</b>					
No. of inspections					137
No. of Contraventions found					7
No. of Contraventions remedied					7
<b>Slaughterhouses—</b>					
No. licensed—Abattoir type					Nil
	Private (individual)	...	...	...	Nil
No. operated by local authority					1



Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1020	150	18	3313	4508
Number inspected .. ..	1020	150	18	3313	4508
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	4	2	6	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. .	103	37	—	27	93
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis .. .. .	10.7	27.3	11.1	0.9	2.5
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	4	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. .	57	21	—	—	71
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	4.3	16.6	—	—	1.6

Other Foods Condemned

10 lbs. Pork	30 lbs. Prunes
1,326 lbs. Beef	115 lbs. Flour
444 lbs. Mutton	41 Pckts. Crumpets
83 lbs. Sausage	66 lbs. Cake
125 lbs. Cheese	6 Pork Pies
15 Stone Fish	

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food—

Meat—Disposal to Contractors,

Other Foods—By fire or burial after chemical treatment.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

### Closets—

No. of houses with privy vaults in district ...	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district ...	18
No. of houses with water-closets in district ...	4,392
No. of water-closets subsitued for pair closets and privy vaults ... ..	Nil

### Cesspools and Septic Tanks—

No. of Cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc. ... ..	37 weekly
No. of Cesspools and septic tanks abolished ...	Nil

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewerage arrangements improved.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made or new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons (state briefly reasons).	Burgh Rd. to discon- tinue use of cesspools
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## WATER SUPPLIES

### Domestic—

No. of houses supplied from public mains—	
In house ... ..	100%
Standpipe/tap ... ..	Nil
No. of houses supplied from private sources—	
In house ... ..	Nil
Not in house ... ..	Nil
New sources of supply—public ... ..	Nil
New sources of supply—private ... ..	Nil
No. of public supplies closed as—	
(i) Polluted ... ..	Nil
(ii) Other reasons ... ..	Nil

Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public health reasons	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
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No. of samples taken for chemical examination—  
From public supplies—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	Nil

From private supplies—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	Nil
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	Nil

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination :—

From public supplies—

Cl. I	...	...	...	5
Cl. II	...	...	...	13
Cl. III	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. IV	...	...	...	Nil

From private supplies—

Cl. I	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. II	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. III	...	...	...	Nil
Cl. IV	...	...	...	Nil

### Swimming Pools—

No. of public swimming pools in operation	...	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	-----	---

No. fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	...	...	...	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

No. of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination—

(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	5
(b) Not satisfactory	...	...	...	Nil

### GENERAL.

#### Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in district	...	...	...	...	Nil
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†No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
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Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil
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**Knackers Yards--**

No. Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

**Shops Act, 1950—**

Number of shops inspected	...	...	...	...	89
Contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	5

**Disinfection, etc.—**

Rooms disinfected :					
(a) ordinary infectious disease	...	...	...	...	17
(b) tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	5
No. of premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	7

**Refuse Collection and Disposal—**

No. of premises from which refuse is collected	...	...	...	...	4,646
Frequency of collection	...	...	...	...	Weekly— in winter twice weekly— Parts of in summer.
Method of disposal	...	...	...	...	Controlled Tip
Is this satisfactory ?	...	...	...	...	Yes
Is collection by Local Authority or contract	...	...	...	...	Local Authority.

**Nuisances—**

Total Number of Nuisances during year :

(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	57
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory notice not issued	...	...	...	...	Nil

**Details of Nuisances abated—**

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	5	Nil
Accumulation of refuse	17	Nil
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	3	Nil
Fowls, pigs and other animals	3	1

Housing (included in section on Page I as defects remedied under Public Health Acts) ... .. Nil	Nil
Dampness ... .. 18	2
Dangerous Premises ... .. Nil	Nil
Drainage ... .. 11	Nil
Other Miscellaneous Nuisances Nil	Nil

### Rats and Mice Destruction—

No. of rodent operatives employed ... ..	1
No. of Premises treated :	
(a) Dwelling houses ... ..	786
(b) Other Premises ... ..	114
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No
Rodent Control Visits ... ..	40
Infectious Disease Visits ... ..	22
Inspections under Petroleum Acts ... ..	41
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	370

### Appendix A

#### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

#### Return of Proposals in accordance with Part I of the Act and Circular 55/54

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area ... ..	4,274
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#### PART 1. The total problem

(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	9
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(ii)	Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	5
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PART 2. Orders already made etc.

(iii)	Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority	Nil
(iv)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	Nil

PART 3. Action in the first five years.

(v)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years.	Nil
(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister.	Nil
(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation.	Nil
(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years.	Nil
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil









